



“One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio,
Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties



800-997-4793

www.seird.org

Summer 2018
Quarterly Newsletter

Reducing waste and putting materials to good use



The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents in our seven-county area the opportunity to reduce waste, give away usable goods, and pick up free items at the Reuse Centers. Centers are located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. A Building Materials Reuse Center is also available at the Switzerland County Recycle Center in East Enterprise.

All Reuse Centers accept clean, gently used merchandise during each center’s normal business hours. Clothing, shoes, books, office supplies, videos, CDs, knick-knacks, and non-upholstered furniture are just a few of the items that are accepted at SEIRD Reuse Centers.

The SEIRD Building Materials Reuse Center in East Enterprise can accept a variety of items, including windows, doors, sinks, fixtures, nails, tools, building supplies, and more. We no longer accept any oil-based paints and stains at our Reuse Centers. Usable latex paint cans with clear labels are welcome. If you are unsure whether an item will be accepted,

please call and ask, especially for large or hard-to-haul items like appliances.

All county residents can “shop” at no cost in their county Reuse Center once a week

during a 20-minute visit. Four items, five books, and unlimited amounts of clothing are available at no charge. Two units per week can be obtained from the Building Materials Reuse Center at no charge. This service is provided to all residents regardless of income. Reuse Center merchandise is for personal use only and should not be resold.

Reuse Center hours and locations are available in the box on the back page and online at www.seird.org. On our website, click on your county (on the far left of the webpage) for specific information on the Recycle and Reuse Center nearest you.

Watch for special events at your county Recycle Center this summer!



Household Hazardous Waste Summer Collection Dates

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers special mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections throughout the district. There is no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the SEIRD facility in Madison accepts HHW year-round. Please mark your calendar for the mobile collection nearest your home:

July 7

Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8 to 10 a.m.

Batesville Area Recycle Center, Ripley County – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July 14

Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8 to 10 a.m.

Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July 21

Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8 to 10 a.m.

Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HHW consists of potentially hazardous materials, such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, oil-based paints and stains, pool chemicals, harsh cleaning agents, acids and bases, fluorescent bulbs, toxic chemicals, etc. We offer these mobile collections for the convenience of residents. Please note that this service is only available

to residents of the following counties: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland.

NO LATEX PAINTS will be accepted and all materials MUST BE LABELED. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. Allow the paint to dry out by leaving the lid off of the can or by adding kitty litter or sand to harden it. Then dispose of the dried-out paint can, with the lid off, in your regular trash.

We will hold another round of HHW mobile collections in October. If you can’t make it to any of these mobile drop-offs, you can deliver the items you no longer need to the SEIRD facility on Jefferson Proving Ground, 6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, north of Madison. All residents of our seven-county district can drop off HHW year-round at this facility, which is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, from 8 a.m. to noon. On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, the facility stays open until 7 p.m. Please keep all items in their original, labeled containers. Do not mix chemicals together. If you have a question about whether a specific item will be accepted and whether fees apply, call our office at 800-997-4793.

Remember: We do not accept latex paint! All materials must be labeled.



Don’t be a wish-cycler!

District residents love to recycle! We accept a wide range of household recyclable materials. But sometimes residents get a little too enthusiastic and put inappropriate items into curbside or drop-off recycling bins, hoping they will be recycled. When this happens, we call it “wish-cycling.” Some of these items are actually trash, and placing them in the recycling bin can contaminate items that are truly recyclable and can cause problems at sorting centers. Help us recycle better by putting only items we can recycle into the recycling bins.

Asphalt and remodeling debris should

not be placed in recycling bins. Neither should garden hoses and broken toys. Here are some other recycling don’ts: aluminum foil, dishes, cookware, Styrofoam, paper towels or tissues, Solo cups, window or mirror glass, pizza boxes, and soiled fast food boxes. Keep all of these items OUT of recycling bins.

When non-recyclables go into recycling bins, those items have to be pulled off the

sorting line — often by hand. After they are removed, they still have to be landfilled. So we’ve spent time and money hauling trash twice, more than doubling the cost. There’s an easier way to do this — please keep trash out of your recycling. Think quality, not quantity.

Make sure you are recycling correctly and being realistic about what goes into recycling bins. Check out the list of what is accepted at each of our county recycling centers on our website www.seird.org. And, when in doubt, throw it out.

Wish-cycling – noun – the practice of tossing questionable items in the recycling bin, hoping they will somehow be recycled



Credit: ImberioPantalone | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Hacks to extend the life of your electronics

From smartphones and smart home devices to TVs and wearable technology, the average American home contains a staggering 30 separate pieces of consumer technology. For over 80% of Americans, smartphone and laptop use has become central to our home, school, and work lives. We have become dependent on them, and it is distressing when they quit working. They represent a significant investment of time and money. So to keep them in use and out of your closet or junk drawer, let's take a look at what you can do to extend the lives of your laptops and cell phones.

It sounds obvious, but the first step is to read the manufacturer's recommendations or the instruction manual to become familiar with how to best care for your device. All device manufacturers recommend optimal operating temperatures. Apple recommends between 32 and 95 degrees for its iOS devices, and other manufacturers have similar recommendations. Heat can be especially damaging. So please don't leave that laptop or smartphone locked in a hot car, lying in the sun, or on top of a radiator. And, despite the name, laptops should not be placed for very long directly on a lap — or pillow or bedding; this can block the laptop's cooling vents, causing your device to overheat. Lap desks and tables are better. If you notice your laptop or cell phone getting hot, provide more adequate ventilation or turn it off.

Make sure your devices don't get wet, and try not to drop them. Again, this seems obvious. However, moisture can seriously damage the inner components of a phone, laptop, or tablet and lead to costly repairs. And be smart about where you place or carry your electronics. An open laptop on the edge of a bed or couch is likely to hit the floor. A smartphone in the bathroom often finds its way into water. A quality water-resistant or waterproof protective case allows you to express your individual style and can add protection against the occasional bump or drop too.

Know how to charge your electronics properly. Rechargeable batteries provide the power for them to function, so let's focus on how to make them last longer. Start by

using the right kind of charger for your device. An off-brand charger may seem like a bargain, but if it overheats your device's battery, you are damaging your investment. Smartphones and laptops vary a bit regarding optimal battery charging. While it is fine to leave laptops constantly plugged in, this can damage a cell phone. For cell phones, it is best to avoid charging for more than 12 hours. Once fully charged, simply unplug the phone from the charger and unplug the charger from the wall. Also consider updating your operating systems regularly and adjusting settings and software use to keep your device running efficiently.

Know the life of the device versus the life of the battery. After years of use, your laptop or smartphone may not seem to hold a charge. The average life of a smartphone or laptop is 4 to 5 years, but proper care can extend these numbers. According to Gazelle, an online buyer and seller of used cell phones, many people end up selling their smartphones, not because they are broken, but because they won't hold a charge. Replacing that battery instead of getting a new smartphone or laptop can save you hundreds! Always consider repairing the device before replacing it.

When it is time for a new device, remember to refer to manufacturers' guidelines for removing all data from your old device. This will keep your personal information safe. Once factory settings are restored or all data is removed, either donate the cell phone or laptop to the charity of your choice, sell it, trade it in, or recycle it. Do not throw it in the trash and do not throw it in a junk drawer for later! Your old smartphone, laptop, or component is worth its maximum value today. Cell phones and laptops contain precious and rare earth metals which are quite difficult to mine. Recycling these metals now keeps them out of landfills, is good for the environment, and saves you the hassle of doing it later.

Smartphones and laptops have become vital parts of our lives. These simple hacks will give you peace of mind and save you time and money by keeping them running longer.

Less waste with your next cup of joe

As Americans, we love our coffee. And it's hard to beat the convenience of brewing a quick, fresh cup the instant you want one. According to a 2016 National Coffee Association report, each day about 62% of us drink coffee, and about a third of U.S. households own a single-cup brewer. While these machines are certainly convenient, there is a huge cost. In 2014, 9.8 billion single-use disposable coffee pods were sold worldwide — enough to circle the earth a mind-blowing 12 times! After their brief glory in creating almost 10 million cups of coffee, one at a time, almost every single one of these pods went straight into a landfill. And more are added each day. Because pods consist of several different types of materials, including plastic, aluminum, paper, and — of course — coffee, they are not easily recyclable or compostable.

So what can you do if you love coffee AND a clean planet? Don't lose heart. There are options. The good news is that they are all more environmentally friendly and less expensive than coffee pods; plus, they only take a bit more of your time.

If you don't yet own a single-cup coffee machine, you don't need to buy one. Many drip coffee pots offer multiple settings to allow you to make just the amount of coffee you want or need. Combine a drip system with a compostable or reusable coffee filter, and the resulting waste is completely compostable. Single-cup French presses make delicious coffee at a fraction of the price and don't need a filter. Single-cup, filter-based drip systems offer the same compostable coffee grounds and

are available in machine or manual pour-over designs. Many coffee drinkers prefer the taste of coffee brewed by traditional methods over the taste of coffee made from a pod. You'll also be saving money because whole beans and ground coffee are generally cheaper on a per-cup basis than coffee pods.

If you happen to live in one of 33% of households in America that owns a machine that uses coffee pods, or if you have one at work, please consider investing in a reusable filter unit that allows you to use the coffee of your choice by filling your own coffee pod. After each use, simply empty the used, compostable coffee grounds from the metal unit and reuse the pod. Perhaps you are skeptical about going cold turkey and making a complete and immediate transition. That's O.K. Try reducing the number of disposable coffee pods you use, opting for the more environmentally friendly

coffee-making methods or the refillable filter pods when you want coffee but have more time.

As a final option, Nescafe offers mailers and recycling drop-off locations for their used, all-aluminum coffee pods. Meanwhile, Keurig has promised to transition to recyclable plastic pods by the year 2020, although this doesn't guarantee that local recyclers would be able to accept and capture the small pods, especially if they still contain coffee grounds.

If you are looking for an easy, guilt-free cup of joe without contributing to the growing number of landfilled coffee pods, reduce waste by avoiding coffee pods or reuse by filling your own washable filter pod.



Credit: Tolbert | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Credit: John Anderson Photo | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Did you know?

Coffee grounds and paper filters can be composted in your backyard compost bin. The grounds will add nitrogen and the paper filters will add carbon to your cooking compost.

Recycling — economically important, environmentally essential, continuously changing

When you choose to recycle, you are participating in an industry that provides raw materials to manufacturers in the most environmentally sensitive way possible. It is an industry that connects the economies of people around the globe. Invisible to many, the scrap recycling industry is a critical link in providing for the material needs of everyone.

In addition to the post-consumer materials that you recycle, the scrap recycling industry obtains from manufacturers waste material that never left the factory as a finished product, such as trimming scraps and off-specification products. These commodity materials are sorted, sold, and shipped to processors who transform them into feedstock suitable for manufacturing new products. According to the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), our country recycled 130 million metric tons of material in this manner during 2015. Recycling existing commodities uses far less energy than growing and harvesting trees for paper products or mining and refining virgin materials into metal, glass, and plastic products. Since it uses less energy, recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It also preserves valuable resources, reducing the environmental impacts of both resource extraction and waste disposal.



Photo courtesy of the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries

This essential industry is a significant part of the U.S. economy. In 2017, 155,632 people were directly employed by the recycling and scrap industries, earning an average of \$76,515 in wages and benefits. Once you add in jobs that supply the industry, as well as jobs resulting from industry expenditures, 534,506 are employed, earning over \$34 billion in wages. The total economic impact of the scrap recycling industry is nearly \$117 billion per year, making it similar in size to the book publishing, dental, or automotive repair industries. Since 25% of what is collected in the U.S. is exported, the industry is also important to our balance of trade. Approximately \$17.5 billion in recycled commodities were exported to over 150 countries in 2016. This is similar to the value of other commodity exports, such as grain, corn, timber, and petroleum.

In commodity markets, as in life, the only constant is change. After 30 years of exclusively focusing on economic growth, the Chinese government decided last

summer that it was time to concentrate on improving the quality of their environment. As part of this effort, limits were placed on the importation of 24 types of recycled commodities. Restrictions range from an outright ban on mixed paper and residential plastics to limiting the percentage of contamination in each shipment of cardboard to 0.5%. These restrictions have now taken effect, and implementation is reshaping the markets for recycled materials.



Credit: AskimTulay/Over | E+ | Getty Images

With China closed to mixed paper and plastics, recyclers have increased shipments to domestic users and other Southeast Asian countries, and prices have dropped across the board. The U.S. price for cardboard dropped from \$160 per ton in March 2017 to \$74 per ton in March 2018. Until suppliers can lower their contamination to target levels, they will redirect recycled commodities to less-stringent markets. In the cardboard market, this has benefitted U.S. paper mills.

For products that were not banned by China, processors are making investments in additional equipment and personnel in an effort to reduce contamination. In order to avoid having loads rejected, recyclers need a new mindset in separating materials. Scooping up material from the bottom of the pile increases the risk of picking up dirt and rocks. Also, one valuable commodity, such as aluminum cans, becomes simple contamination in a shipment of a different commodity, like cardboard.

As always, recyclers like you also play an important role in the success of this industry. Unfortunately, an average load of mixed recyclables placed at the curb can contain as much as 25% contamination. At the curb, contamination is defined as anything that is not accepted in your local recycling program, or as acceptable materials that have been placed in the bin in an unacceptable condition. So, contamination includes placing the wrong items into the bin and placing dirty items into the bin. Remember to always empty, rinse, and drip-dry all glass, plastic, and metal food containers before placing them in the bin. Remove any wet material and place it in the trash.

For more information on the economic impact of the scrap recycling industry, visit www.isri.org.

The obsessive quest for the perfect lawn



Credit: Thomas Vogel | E+ | Getty Images

“It’s a beautiful day and... Whoa, check out the neighbor’s yard; it is so much nicer than mine. How does he do it? Should I care? I mean, I could just enjoy the view and go on about my day, but something about it bothers me. I thought I was taking pretty good care of my yard and then this guy moves in. Suddenly, if my yard looks like anything short of a putting green, I’m some kind of bum; just who does he think he is?” Have you ever had thoughts like these? If so, you are not alone.

There is a struggle in America, a battle actually. Millions of people devote large sums of money or their precious free time trying to make turf grass thrive in climates that are nothing like the cool, wet places where these plants originated. The task is made all the more challenging by the desire to keep the grass uniformly short and brilliantly green through every season of the year. Did you ever ask yourself how it came to this? Ted Steinberg can provide you with answers in his book, *American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn* (W.W. Norton & Company).

With a keen sense of humor and a balanced perspective, Steinberg relates how we have reached a point in this country where every family, regardless of means, is expected to maintain a landscape designed to showcase the wealth and power of English aristocrats 300 years ago. If you add up all of the turf landscapes, including athletic fields and golf courses, “the lawn is one of America’s leading ‘crops,’ amounting to at least twice the acreage planted in cotton.” That is an area somewhere between the size of Kentucky and Florida that requires mowing this week, so you may as well cancel that tee time on Saturday.

Before the automobile, people either lived in town or in the country. What little property an urban family owned that wasn’t covered by their house was likely planted with vegetables, or maybe flowers. Rural families were busy clearing and turning every bit of woods and prairie into cropland or pasture. The idea of spending time and resources on a patch of ground you just look at, or at best play on, came later. As cars became increasingly more affordable, urban lots grew in size, creating more room around the house for... something. Initially gradual, suburban growth exploded after World War II, creating opportunities for a new type of home builder like Abe Levitt of Long Island, NY. Where all homes

were previously built by or for a specific individual, Abe and his sons created a system where homes were mass-produced and the finished houses sold to individual consumers. They all had lawns because, as Abe said, “A fine lawn makes a frame for a dwelling.” He built 17,544 of them in Levittown between 1947 and 1951.

All of those Levittown homeowners soon found that keeping a lawn was a lot of work. Mowing during the growing season and watering during the dry spells were just the beginning. Lawns that you could be proud of and wouldn’t lower property values required reseeding and fertilizer as well. The Scotts Company in Marysville, OH seized the opportunity. The company had made a name for itself and thrived selling crop seeds of commendable purity. In 1928, they launched their Turf Builder brand fertilizer and began publishing *Lawn Care* magazine. Subscriptions, while free, had to be requested. Eventually published in 16 editions, *Lawn Care* showed aspiring turf perfectionists how best to use the company’s products in their particular soil and climate. In the 1930s, they introduced a spreader to improve the consistency of fertilizer coverage. After the war, they combined fertilizer with 2,4-D, a broadleaf herbicide the military had developed. Eventually marketed as “Weed and Feed,” the product became the second link in a familiar family of products. Targeted at dandelions, it also killed clover. Since clover is a plant that takes nitrogen from the air and returns it to the soil, killing clover actually increases the need for the fertilizer. In the 1950s, pre-emergent herbicides were added so that homeowners could prevent crabgrass they may or may not have had.

American Green goes on to describe how lawn care evolved from a do-it-yourself activity into a task many people hire out. Whether for the chemical applications or the weekly mowing, an army of workers in trucks are moving through suburban America on any given day. They “mow, blow, and go,” leaving the homeowner with ringing ears, a bill, and a lawn to be proud of for the next few days.

Steinberg also explores the evolution and safety of lawn mowing equipment, as well as the more recent movement by many back to more natural landscapes. With a little data, big picture narratives, and fun little vignettes, he tells an engaging story about our “obsessive quest for the perfect lawn.”

SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center

616 John Street, Batesville
 Phone: 812-801-9099
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Franklin County Recycle and Reuse Center

9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville)
 Phone: 765-647-6710
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

Jefferson County Recycle Center

6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground)
 Phone: 812-574-4080
 Hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.*; 2nd and 4th Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 *The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center

6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison
 Phone: 812-801-7012
 Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center

4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage)
 Phone: 812-352-0800
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and Reuse Center

1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun
 Phone: 812-801-9037
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center

2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood
 Phone: 812-801-9077
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon (closed Wed. and Sun.)
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center

4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Switzerland County Recycle and Building Materials Reuse Center and Reuse Store

19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise
 Phone: 812-599-3751
 Recycle and Building Materials Reuse Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon



For more information:
www.seird.org

Recycling Best Practices

- Rinse out bottles and cans. Rinsing helps keep your bin odor-free. Let the cans and bottles drip-dry before placing them into your recycling bin.
- Please dispose of caps properly. Loose caps are not accepted for recycling. Either place caps back onto bottles and recycle them together, OR throw caps into the trash and recycle only the bottles.
- Keep your recycling dry. Wet paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.
- Keep a bin nearby. Don't limit recycling to the kitchen. Expand to the bathroom and office — and don't forget about cardboard. Keep multiple bins around the house and you will recycle more often.
- Buy recycled products. Remember to close the recycling loop. By purchasing



products made with recycled materials, you are providing a market for your recyclables.

What about plastic bags?

Reuse plastic shopping bags by taking them back to the store and refilling them with groceries.

Repurpose bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small waste baskets. Smaller bags, such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or for dog waste disposal.

Recycle empty, clean plastic bags, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks. Plastic bags are accepted for recycling:

- In curbside recycle bins (bag together)
- At our SEIRD Recycle Centers
- At local retail stores, such as Kroger, Walmart, and Lowe's



Credit: NoDerog | E+ | Getty Images

We'll have a new truck with a new look later this summer. Keep an eye out for it!

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.


We want your suggestions, questions and comments!
Southeastern Indiana Recycling District
 Jefferson Proving Ground Building #534
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QUOTES REQUOTED

WE ARE THE LEAVES OF ONE BRANCH,
 THE DROPS OF ONE SEA,
 THE FLOWERS OF ONE GARDEN.

JEAN-BAPTISTE HENRI-DOMINIQUE LACORDAIRE, 1802–1861